

## **City Council Special Called Meeting 8/17/2012**

>> Mayor Leffingwell: A  
quorum is present, so I'll  
call this special called  
meeting of the austin city  
council to order on friday,  
august 17th, 2012.

The time is 2:10 p.m.

We're meeting in the council  
chambers, austin city hall,  
301 west second street,  
austin, texas.

Before we begin I'd like to  
take a minute here to  
recognize somebody told me  
there were 50 school  
children here from dove  
springs.

Could you stand up so that  
everyone will recognize you?

[Applause]

and I see you have a lot of  
signs there.

So as we go through the  
meeting, remember look  
around and see if there's  
someone behind you that you  
might be blocking that  
couldn't see.

So you could keep your signs  
out of their way.

Okay.

So we basically -- we have a  
couple of items on the  
agenda if necessary.

So the first is to approve  
an ordinance amending the  
order calling for the  
november 6, 2012 election to  
provide for a general  
obligation bond propositions  
and declaring an emergency.

We do have some folks signed  
up to speak.

Only five so far.

Without objection, council,

I would like to limit --

this is the third hearing

we've had -- actually, the

fourth -- to limit public

testimony to 30 minutes.

That would be 10 speakers.

Right now we have five.

So the first speaker that we

have signed up is ophelia

zapata.

Is ophelia here?

Okay.

So ma'am, you have three

minutes.

>> Good afternoon.

Again, I want to thank all  
our dove springs youth for  
being out here with their  
parents.

My name is ophelia zapata.

I am vice-chair of the  
southeast neighborhood  
contact team.

And I'm here on behalf of  
our community to shed some  
light on some background of  
the dove springs recreation  
center.

When it -- first I want to  
thank you for the staff's  
work and the current  
proposed dollars allocated.

However, since 2004 it was  
the last time that the  
public health department put  
in a proposal for a  
multipurpose center.

We are the only neighborhood  
east of i-35 that never  
received a multi purpose  
center.

And although there is  
dollars allocated in there,  
we're talking about for our  
neighborhood because of all  
the research that has been  
done in the last two, three  
years about our community  
and the obesity issue and  
all the health issues,  
safety issues, that our  
multipurpose center we want  
a comprehensive multipurpose  
center that has a senior  
center.

Our seniors are homebound.

We want the total holistic

approach to creating a safe  
and healthy community.

When we originally built the  
dove springs rec center  
there was a police  
substation in the actual  
architect because that was  
the goal was to continue  
creating a safe  
neighborhood.

It was moved out 10 years  
ago.

There is a lot of things  
that we are challenged with  
in our neighborhood, but we  
are here to do our part with  
you.

But what we're asking today  
is to really look at the

that would not create --  
that is not enough money for  
the multipurpose center that  
we need in our community  
that we have been waiting  
for.

It's been in our 2002 plan  
for 4.5 million.

So we ask you to seriously  
do what you can to increase  
those dollars to create the  
facility that we need to  
make dove springs 78744, a  
healthy community and one  
that our children can --  
won't be limited to the  
recreational activities that  
will help them become  
healthier children.

Again, thank you and again,  
thank all the students and  
the families for being here.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

Mona gonzalez.

>> Good afternoon, mayor and  
city councilmembers.

We are, as you can see, a  
young community.

What does that mean for  
austin, texas?

It means the future  
bilingual tech workforce, it  
means the future leaders of  
this community, chris.

Mike, it means the future of  
austin, our beloved  
community.

So today there are here to  
voice their opinion.



As so eloquently stated by  
ophelia zapata, we need more  
than the 1.7 million.

We know how tough it's been.

We were there at every  
single bond election  
taskforce meeting, even the  
children were there.

But it has come to its time.

We must make decisions.

Recently I saw a map, laura,  
of dove springs.

And we've seen many maps  
because there's a lot of  
research going on as owe  
peel I can't mentioned.

This map was a little  
different, do you know why?

Children.

Do you know what it had on  
the map?

[Speaking spanish].

Little bears.

And on that map with little  
bears all over dove springs  
you would think that maybe  
they were celebrating their  
birthday or maybe it  
signified something very  
beautiful, but do you know  
what it signified?

It signified the traffic  
fatalities that have  
occurred in our  
neighborhood.

Every little bear meant that  
a child had been somehow  
hurt either through a bike

or pedestrian situation.

And I thought to myself, why  
is that happening?

And part of it is because  
they're playing in the  
streets.

They don't have enough safe  
placing to.

As a mother and as a  
grandmother, you can  
understand that is our worst  
nightmare, that our child  
would be one of those little  
bears.

And so we beseech you today.

It's not an easy decision.

It's tough.

But for the sake of the  
future of austin, the future  
of our families and the  
future of these children,  
please enlarge, expand, have  
the boldness, make a few  
changes here and there, but  
make it happen.

We are so grateful to you.

We know each one of you has  
a good heart.

You have a pen in your hand.

Exercise it for the good.

And if you do, we will seek  
together the beauty of dove  
springs in just a few years.

Look at them.

They're headed for college.

Mark, they want your job.

[Laughter].

And they will succeed by  
god's grace.

Thank you.

[ Buzzer sounds ]

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Next  
speaker is pat smith.

[Is@smith](#) -- okay.

Welcome.

You have three minutes.

>> I know you're exhaust and  
I know your time is  
precious, so I will not -- i  
will not burden you with any  
more of our plea.

I think that the children  
here certainly speak for the  
passion and the need in  
community, and the previous  
speakers did a beautiful  
job.

We appreciate all your time,  
work and effort.

We know the decisions are  
difficult, but dove springs  
seems to be and has been  
overlooked for a very long  
time.

And this is precious time in  
the childhood and youth of  
these children that affects  
their future.

So we would appreciate each  
of you considering very  
closely more dollars for the

dove springs recreation  
center.

Thank you so much.

>> Frank (indiscernible).

mayor and members of  
the council, my name is  
frank cardenas, I'm speaking  
about mexi-carte museum.

I'm a new coming to austin.

I moved from longview about  
four years ago when i  
retired, and I'm sure that i  
have the same experience  
that many of you had about  
mexi-carte.

Many times I went to there  
and there was no way that i  
could have thought that  
there was a museum behind  
the walls.

When I found out what the

museum was doing, the  
quality of their exhibits,  
the quality of their  
education, the quality of  
their board members, but  
most impressively, most  
importantly, I was impressed  
that out of the four or five  
museums in the nation,  
mexi-carte is the only  
museum that has an official  
contract with the government  
of mexico to bring masters  
to exhibit here in our  
museum.

Now, consequently the museum  
is the official museum of  
the state of texas for  
mexican art.

The only problem is that we  
don't have a facility to  
bring these masters.



We don't have a place to  
exhibit, you know, those --  
you know, those good -- the  
good art that we can bring.

And we need your help.

And I'm sure that there's  
many of you that are going  
to help us because improving  
mexi-carte is not only going  
to be good for mexi-carte,  
it's going to be a great  
improvement for the entire  
city of austin.

And maybe the state of  
texas.

You know, people go to fort  
worth to the kimball to see  
special exhibits.

People go to houston to see

special exhibits.

There's no reason why people  
can't come to austin,  
especially being the capital  
and austin being such a  
vacation area to visit, you  
know, with the capitol.

So I ask you to consider --  
I know you want to help  
mexi-carte.

I know that in your heart  
you want to help mexi-carte.  
I just help you to dig in  
your minds and see what you  
can do and try to help and  
get some fund there's for  
mexi-carte.

In closing I want to add one  
more thing, mexi-carte for  
more than 25 years has made  
so many things, has done so

many things for austin.

Education, bringing the --

you know, it's a cultural

entity for hispanics.

And it's a sanctuary for

people, you know, like

myself that were born in

mexico.

And I think it's due time

that austin give mexi-carte

just a little bit back.

And that's all I have to

say.

Thank you for allowing me to

speak.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

Sylvia roscoe.

>> I'm going to give a few  
of my time to kathleen who  
wrote this incredible letter  
and I wanted her to read  
that.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:  
Okay.

mayor,  
councilmembers, good  
afternoon.

I am kathleen needorf, as  
she said and I am just on  
the advisory committee for  
mexi-carte museum.

I am here in support of five  
million dollars in bond  
money for a new mexi-carte  
museum.

My ethnicity is purely  
northern european.

I was really disappointed a  
few years ago to find out  
that the great, great  
cherokee grandmother was not  
mine, it was my cousin's.  
So I have nothing but german  
and welsh blood.

But I'm a sixth generation  
texan and hispanic heritage  
is mine too.

As it is for all of us.

I'm convinced and my husband  
frank joins me, that the  
city of austin will be  
missing a major opportunity  
for cultural recognition and  
economic growth if this new  
museum is passed over.

As the previous speaker

mentioned, people go to fort  
worth not only to see what's  
in the kimball, but to see  
the kimball.

People go to san antonio to  
see the mcnee.

As is witnessed by the buses  
in their park lots on a  
daily basis.

Mexi-carte as envisioned by  
the architect fernando  
romero, who designed a  
museum in mexico city, would  
be a spectacular addition to  
downtown austin, to downtown  
revitalization, as well as  
an addition to the soul of  
this city.

Finally, it is indisputable,  
just peruse the research of  
the deeming on ralph he at  
rice and the former head of

the united states census  
bureau that the population  
of texas will have a  
majority of hispanic  
citizens in a decade or two.

They would be fools not to  
recognize the potential for  
encouraging educational and  
cultural programs and  
facilities for our state  
that take advantage of this  
fact.

Mexi-carte museum could be  
just such a facility for  
just such programs.

Thank you very much.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

You have about 45 seconds.

>> Thank you.

Mayor and community members,  
I've been doing this for 30  
years, and before that, i  
just want to say I was like  
many of the children here  
and I grew up in crow,  
texas.

And I didn't have the  
opportunity to go into a  
museum until I was 20 years  
old.

And then I went to mexico  
and lived in the city with  
more than 100 museums.

And I lived in those museums  
for five years and I said i  
want to come back to austin  
and I want that for my  
community.

And we've done everything we  
can, made something out of  
nothing for all these years,



and I just ask you -- we're  
connected to you, we have a  
50-year contract with you.

We went through the process,  
we got a recommendation.  
Community has spoken.  
I just ask you to help make  
that push a little bit more.

We can bring greatness to  
this city.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

Larry graham?

>> Good afternoon,  
mayor, members of the  
council.

My name is larry graham and

I have served on the board  
of mexi-carte for a little  
over a year.

And just briefly, I wanted  
to say that I support, if  
possible, adding funds in  
the bond for mexi-carte for  
the new building.

It's quite a project and i  
think it would really  
allow -- it would be  
something great for  
downtown, but it really  
would allow the museum to  
display a lot of the art  
that its unable to display  
now.

I think it would be  
something spectacular for  
austin.

I know you have some very  
difficult decisions to make  
and we're down here kind of

down to the wire, but I just  
ask that you consider  
putting some money in for  
mexi-carte to help with the  
construction of the new  
building.

So that's all I have to say.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

Elizabeth baskin.

>> Hello.

I'm here as an austinite.

I'm here to represent all of  
the children who have  
opportunities to do all  
sorts of wonderful things  
through our museum for  
children in underserved

areas.

And I am a concerned person  
about our downtown, about  
tourism.

I think the possibilities  
would be so exceptional if  
we are able to have a  
wonderful building there on  
the corner of fifth and  
congress.

Right now we have all sorts  
of amazing architectural  
things going on downtown,  
and our little building  
needs some work.

And not only from the  
inside, but the outside.

The things that it will  
bring to austin and the  
opportunities for tourism,

for people coming and saying  
in hotels and spending lots  
of time in austin, and to  
grow the culture here, will  
be absolutely wonderful.

So please consider giving us  
the additional monies that  
we need to start out our  
campaign.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Thank you.

Those are all the speakers  
that I have signed up to  
speak.

So council, we are at first  
and second readings on  
propositions 12 through 17  
have been approved, it's  
been approved on first and  
second reading.

Today we'll consider third reading.

>> Cole: Mayor?

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Mayor pro tem?

>> Cole: I will move for approval on third reading of all the items -- all of the propositions.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Mayor pro tem cole moves approval on third reading.

Is there a second for that motion?

Seconded by councilmember martinez.

Further discussion?

Councilmember morrison.

>> Morrison: This has certainly been an arduous

process and last night was a  
classic struggle that i  
think we all tried valiantly  
to find some agreement on,  
whether we were going to be  
supporting fire stations or  
mexi-carte or bathhouses or  
design or bridges or  
whatever.

And didn't move the needle  
at all, but I think for  
myself there are some very  
positive elements in this  
package and it's certainly  
time to put personal  
disappointments aside and  
move forward.

I can tell you that last  
night I certainly considered  
voting for this so that we  
could just avoid this  
meeting, but I just was

optimistic that after a good  
night's sleep somebody was  
going to be able to pull a  
rabbit out of a hat and come  
up with some miraculous way  
that we could all agree on  
shifting some funds that  
would make everybody happy.

But that didn't happen.

But what it did get me  
thinking about is one of the  
things I think that struck  
me is, you know, 20 years  
ago there was criticism that  
all our resources were going  
outside the city -- to the  
edge of the city.

And that we were ignoring  
downtown.

And I think that -- I just



want to say that I think we  
need to be wear that we  
don't move the needle too  
far to the other side and  
that we do need to find a  
balance.

We need to include the whole  
city.

It's wonderful what's  
happened with downtown, but  
I don't want the other --  
the other parts of the city  
to be -- to lack the  
resources that they need to  
be able to remain vibrant.

And we need to do -- you  
know, we need to do our jobs  
in a very even handed way.

In any case, there are some  
things, of course, that i  
disagree with, but on the  
whole I think that this is a

solid package to take to the voters.

And before I close, I want to thank -- I know we've thanked the taskforce before and I want to thank the staff that have been like deer in the headlights when we start saying let's move this and this and this and this, and y'all kept up with us and all the personnel that are behind you and all.

It's been a delight to work for you.

So I would say that for the good of the city I want to be part of this statement that this council is going to make in putting this proposition on the ballot

that this is a solid --  
these propositions, that  
this is a solid package and  
it's deserving of their  
serious consideration.

So I will be supporting the  
motion.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Any  
other comments?

Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: Thanks.

And thank you to all of the  
community members who have  
come downtown after time and  
been part of the taskforce  
process.

I know you have all invested  
lots of time and energy and  
resources in this ongoing  
dialogue.

And I want to extend my

thanks too to the staff  
because the information  
you've provided us with has  
been very useful to making  
these hard decisions.  
I too hope that after a good  
night's sleep we might see  
some new solutions emerging  
this morning.

But ter looking over the  
spreadsheet for the 50th  
time, I don't think there  
are any options that we  
haven't tried in terms of  
shifting money around.

And I think in -- as a whole  
I think this is a very  
strong bond proposal.

I think we will -- priority  
projects that have been  
discussed and contemplated  
in this proposal will reach

all across austin, east,  
west, north and south.

And I think that's a real  
success to have a bond  
proposal that is so  
balanced.

And I want to say that I am  
so thrilled to see a bond  
proposal going before the  
voters that has such a  
strong commitment to  
affordable housing because  
it is such a critical need  
in this community.

So I really thank my  
colleagues for their support  
of such a high level of  
funding.

I know it was a challenge to  
get to that number.

I know there are many in  
this community who would  
like to see that number  
higher, but I think it is a  
strong to significant  
commitment and it says a lot  
about the vision of austin  
that we want to see in the  
future.

And I think that's  
especially important after  
hearing the stories and the  
hearings that led up to this  
final vote of the elderly  
woman living without running  
water in her house and a  
home repair grant was able  
to turn that situation  
around.

The child living in a van  
and going to the library to  
plug in his nebulizer, that

is not any of our vision of  
austin.

And I know that this money  
that we have in the package  
for affordable housing will  
do

lives, and I'm very  
supportive of the package  
overall.

Soil be supporting today's  
vote.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Any  
other comments?

Councilmember martinez.

>> Martinez: Just briefly,  
I want to look at all of you  
and thank you very much.

I know it hasn't been easy.

I know we've disagreed on  
little individual items from  
here and there, trying to  
make some last minute

tweaks, but I know we all  
share the same value, and  
that is we care so much  
about this city.

And the reason we struggled  
this week is not because we  
can't get along and because  
we can't agree, it's because  
we can't stop caring about  
our citizens and trying to  
do more, trying to do as  
much as we possibly can.

So I thank you all.

And I look forward to  
working with you all,  
getting this measure passed  
and then getting to work on  
the next project, whichever  
it is.

So I really want to share my  
thanks to the entire



council, to the city manager  
and to all of your staff.

I really appreciate all your  
work.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: City  
manager?

>> Ott: Thank you,  
councilmember martinez.

I want to take that thanks  
and appreciation and pass it  
on to a very capable staff  
sitting here, mike and staff  
and everybody who worked  
hard for a long time to  
bring a recommendation to  
you and worked hard as you  
worked your way through it  
to get to where you are  
today.

My hats off to your heart

felt appreciation for all  
your hard work.

Thank you very much.

Likewise to the taskforce as  
well.

Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Before we vote I want to  
clarify in case I misspoke,  
that this is on propositions  
12 through 18.

12 Through 18.

Somebody said I might have  
said 17.

So --

>> Cole: Go ahead.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: I  
just want to also -- this

has been a lot of hard work  
for everyone.

It's been a very difficult  
process.

If money were unlimited it  
would have been a lot  
easier, but money is limited  
and we had to really work  
hard at prioritizing these  
propositions.

We've heard today about two  
needs that are very great in  
my opinion, meritorious.

Over the past four times  
that we've addressed this  
item in public we've heard  
about a lot more.

There are a lot of --  
there's a lot of need and a  
lot of items that need to be  
funded still out there.

This year and this bond  
package we can't do it.

That's unfortunate.

That doesn't mean it's the  
end of it.

We'll continue to look for  
ways to help people all over  
this city, not with this  
bond package, but with other  
efforts, and we'll continue  
to try to think of  
innovative ways to do things  
to help those who have unmet  
needs.

Thanks to all the  
councilmembers.

I know it's been a difficult  
process for you as well.

And somebody said earlier  
that if it were -- I believe

it was you, councilmember  
morrison.

You might have had some  
slightly different  
priorities and I think we're  
all in that same boat, but  
this is something where it  
has to be a collaborative  
effort and we volleyball to  
agree on a final package --  
we all have to agree on a  
final package at some point  
in time.

And that's what is facing us  
with this next vote as the  
final vote on a package that  
all of us can support, at  
least I hope that's the  
case.

Mayor pro tem?

>> Cole: Thank you.

First I want to acknowledge  
the mayor for coming up with  
a process whereby we could  
vote on individual items and  
did not have to vote the  
whole thing up or down.

That was the procedural move  
that I think made us leap  
very, very far.

I want to thank  
councilmember martinez for  
making his proposal first  
public and laying out a  
groundwork for us in our  
first meeting on the issue.

I think that set the stage.

And I want to thank  
councilmember morrison and  
councilmember tovo for doing  
the same and for emphasizing  
continually the importance

of the citizens bond  
advisory committee and the  
work that they were doing  
and our need to acknowledge  
that.

I want to thank  
councilmember riley for  
hanging in there and working  
so hard to make sure that we  
got this done.

Our city manager often times  
doesn't say much, but he  
works hard and stood behind  
his staff, mike trimble and  
the countless others.

Not just with us, but with  
the bond advisory committee  
and many, many citizens.

Finally and foremost, what

is happening in other cities  
where the confidence in  
government is declining, it  
is obvious that here we are  
doing much better because we  
have citizens that answer  
our calls time and time  
again and give us their  
talents, their energy and  
their time to support our  
process of governing.

And I want to thank all the  
people on the taskforce and  
all the people who brought  
items before the taskforce.

My goal was to make sure  
that we had a package  
without a tax increase.

And together we have done  
that.

We are addressing our most



pressing needs and they will  
be met.

And at this point I simply  
ask the citizens to give us  
their full support because  
this is a package that  
deserves approval at the  
ballot box.

Thank you, mayor.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:

Okay.

All those in favor of the  
motion say aye.

>> Just real quick on advice  
of legal we would like to  
just go through the final  
numbers for the propositions  
and then I think legal has  
another piece of information  
to give you.

>> Cole: That is not a  
nice way to end, michael.

[Laughter].

>> I'm sorry.

I'm sorry.

Always about process.

[Laughter].

>> So the totals that we  
have by propositions,  
proposition 12,  
transportation and mobility,  
is 143,299,000.

Proposition 13, open space  
and watershed protection, is  
\$30 million.

Proposition 14, parks and  
recreation, is 77,680,000.

Proposition 15, housing, is  
78,300,000.

Proposition 16, public  
safety, is 31,079,000.

Proposition 17, health and  
human services, is  
11,148,000.

And proposition 18, library  
and museum and cultural arts  
facilities, is 13,442,000.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: Any  
questions about those  
numbers?

>> Cole: Move approval,  
mayor.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: We  
already -- go ahead.

>> Thank you.

Lela fireside for the law  
department.

I just wanted to make sure

that y'all realize that the  
reason that you have yellow  
copies is because we made  
sure that the ordinance  
addressing the calling of  
the election as amended by  
you all to set up all the  
charter provisions is  
reflected in part 1 of this  
ordinance.

And that's also why the  
numbers [inaudible] charter  
amendments.

I just wanted to make sure  
you were aware.

>> Mayor Leffingwell: We  
understand that.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Leffingwell:  
Further discussion?

All in favor say aye?

Opposed say no?

It passes on a vote of six  
to zero with councilmember  
spelman off the dais.

[Applause]

so item number 2 I don't  
believe we have any matters  
to discuss or any action to  
take on that since we passed  
item number 1.

And so items number 2 and 3  
are withdrawn.

Without objection, we stand  
adjourned at 2:42 p.m.